REMARKS

ON THE

PROFESSION

AND

DUTY

OF A

SOLDIER;

WITH OTHER OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO THE

ARMY,

AT THIS TIME IN ACTUAL SERVICE ON THE CONTINENT.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

1794.

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DEDICATION.

TO

THE MOST NOBLE

THE

MARQUIS of SALISBURY:

MY LORD,

AT a time when the Britiſh troops are known to be on actual ſervice on the Continent, atchieving by their valour, and rendering by their actions, every benefit to their country, at a period when the *ſacred rights of Engliſhmen* are invaded, and their fine-formed and invaluable Conſtitution, which has for ages ſtood the boaſt and admiration of the world!---I ſay, my Lord, at a time when this *pillar* of *ſafety* and *happineſs* has been attempted to be *ſhook*, there have been found thoſe willing and capable of defending it from innovation; ſoldiers that have courted the dangers of the enterpriſe, and adorned it with ſuch deeds as poſterity ſhall hereafter gaze on with wonder and delight!

And

And permit me, at the ſame time, to add, that there are thoſe under your Lordſhip's command, who, though *raiſed* to defend the *internal* preſervation of Britain at home, I have every reaſon to believe would rejoice, in having an opportunity to diſtinguiſh their names in the field of glory, whenever any occaſion may require a proof of their loyalty and courage.

Fully confiding in this opinion, I have preſumed to dedicate the following pages to your notice; which, if your Lordſhip ſhould deign to ſanction with your approbation, will confer an honor on,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt reſpectful,

And devoted humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

AN

AN ADDRESS

TO THE

ARMY.

GENTLEMEN,

IN uſhering the preſent publication into the world, I have neither the hope nor preſumption to imagine, for a moment, that it can tend to inſtruct, or afford any particular advantage, to the well-informed and veteran ſoldier; yet, from the number of forces recently raiſed, and at this time augmenting, to act in the defence of England, I am inclined to believe, that ſuch obſervations as are laid down in the courſe of the following pages, will prove of ſome uſe and utility, and perhaps tend upon the whole to benefit the ſervice.

When I reflect on having had the honor to draw my ſword in the cauſe of my country, in the campaign of 1793, in conjunction with the Britiſh troops on the continent, I glory the more in the thought that I may a ſecond time have an opportunity, in the courſe of the enſuing ſummer, to witneſs a ſimilar pleaſure.

Under

Under this idea, and a long acquaintance with military duty, derived from actual ſervice, in the late German war, under the command of that brave and experienced general, Sir William Erſkine, I am induced to hope, that having, by ſuch means, acquired ſome knowledge of the profeſſion, I am not altogether incompetent to the taſk of giving inſtruction to the young and undiſciplined ſoldier; but, that with ſuch a model before him in a commander, who, in the perſon of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, blends every requiſite that can exalt the warrior, and at the ſame time dignify the character of a man, the intent will become ſufficient and effectual. Truſting, therefore, that with ſuch an example, and the few hints of advice conveyed through the medium of this little work, that the ſame will be received by You with partiality and indulgence, I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt obedient,

And devoted humble Servant,

PHILIP ASTLEY.

PROFESSION AND DUTY

OF A

SOLDIER.

THE author of the following remarks, on the profeſſion and duty of a ſoldier, conceives himſelf, in ſome manner, authoriſed to enter into a detail on the requiſites neceſſary to complete a Military Character, from having, at a very early period in life, embraced a martial profeſſion; and, on various occaſions, experienced by actual ſervice the duties attached to it.

The profeſſion of a ſoldier, in my humble opinion, carries with it a very extenſive and honorable name; it is allowed to be lawful by Holy Writ. Emperors and kings, by ancient

and modern hiſtory, have deemed themſelves dignified by being enrolled ſoldiers: and in the reign of his preſent majeſty, George the IIId. three of the princes of the royal family are living inſtances of the value of the profeſſion.

In the perſon of his royal highneſs the Duke of York, we have had occaſion to behold, with ſurpriſe and admiration, the heroic and undaunted ſpirit of youth, with the cool and mature judgment of a veteran, combine in all his actions; added to which, ſuch a competent knowledge of good diſcipline and ſubordination (which may be ſaid to form the principal and moſt diſtinguiſhed characteriſtics of a ſoldier) that while they have excited aſtoniſhment and terror in the enemy, have at the ſame time proved the boaſt and delight of the Britiſh troops, who have prided themſelves on being commanded by ſo gallant and illuſtrious a general.

Nor ſhould time be ſuffered to eraze from memory the praiſe-worthy conduct of his two royal brothers, Prince Erneſt, and Prince Adolphus,

Adolphus, who, at the head of the infantry and cavalry, have led to the charge, in ſuch a manner, as will ever tend to immortalize their names.

He who embraces the profeſſion of a *ſoldier*, ought to be appriſed, that *perſeverance* in attaining a knowledge of the *uſe* of *arms* ſhould be made his peculiar ſtudy, as, on a competent knowledge of the *management* of his *horſe*, *arms*, *&c.* in every inſtance, contributes eſſentially to his ſafety, whether acting on the defence, or the contrary.

He is at the ſame time to be informed, that *honor* ſhould be his firſt and principal taſk to attain; and as ſtrict diſcipline is neceſſary to the accompliſhment of a good ſoldier, he never ſhould loſe ſight of its grand inſtructor, *Honor*; as that ſoldier who neglects diſcipline, may not only prove the means of ſeeking his own deſtruction by ſuch an error, but in all probability prove the ſource of misfortune to his brave and valiant comrades, particularly at a time when

his ſervices is moſtly wanted for the defence of his country.

It is alſo to be remarked, that there is frequently as much honor gained by the endeavour to ſurmount difficulties, as is ſometimes obtained by the ſplendor of a victory.

To contend in the field with the various elements; to ſuffer patiently in the time of war unavoidable and unforeſeen wants, diſtinguiſhes the good ſoldier, the noble mind, and an exalted character.

A ſoldier ſhould, at the ſame time, keep in mind never to neglect the road that leads to honor and the public good, as one of the principal qualifications attached to his character; and by which he may ſurely attain it, is a perfect obedience to the commands of his ſuperior officers; for not any thing can tend more effectually to leſſen the character of a ſoldier, and ruin the ſervice, than diſobedience or inebriety.

Tem-

Temperance in a ſoldier, in every ſenſe, leads to valour, and valour, moſt unqueſtionably to victory. But in order perfectly to obtain ſo deſirable an end, it is alſo to be underſtood, that a proper reſpect and veneration ſhould at all times be kept in mind, towards the will of the Supreme Deity, under whoſe divine banners every good is to be expected; but by a prophanation of the ſame, every evil may ariſe.

OBSERVATIONS ON SMALL BODIES ADVANCING INTO AN ENEMY's COUNTRY.

ADMITTING that a ſoldier is every way equipped for actual ſervice, it becomes highly neceſſary to obſerve, that in advancing into the country of an enemy, every precaution ought to be uſed, by ſtrictly paying attention never to loſe ſight of the commanding officer; who, being acquainted himſelf with every particular relative to the ſituation of the enemy, may give ſuch direction to his patroles, or advance parties, as may tend to ſecure from any ſurpriſe of the foe, thoſe under his command.

And

And it is neceſſary in this place to remark, that ſuch an officer, or officers, ſhould endeavour to be acquainted with the particulars of every direct and bye-road, river, and avenue, that may any way lead to a communication with the enemy.

The greateſt care ſhould alſo be taken that his advanced parties are not at too great a diſtance from the main body, as ſuch a precaution may prove the means of preventing their being cut off. It is further neceſſary to obſerve, that ſmall parties of horſe or foot are more likely to anſwer the purpoſe of watching the motions of an enemy than large bodies; as the leaſt circumſtance may throw the latter into confuſion, when the former can be but little affected, from being more expeditiouſly rallied; by which means the enemy may in ſome meaſure be prevented from making any conſiderable progreſs, by a rapid advance in daſhing forward. Soldiers ſhould likewiſe know, when advanced in the front of an army, that by diſtreſſing the inhabitants in the country of an enemy, they materially endanger themſelves, by too frequently,

in

in the act of plunder, making enemies of thoſe who might otherwiſe be inclined to befriend them; and therefore it is neceſſary that every attention is paid to the orders of the commanding officer; particularly by ſervants of officers, &c.

The greateſt circumſpection ſhould at all times be ſtrictly obſerved, when purſuing the enemy, as retrogade movements on their part may draw you from your ſtrong poſitions, and thereby place the advantage on the ſide of themſelves.

Some knowledge of the nature of the country, where the ſeat of action may lay, ſhould at all times be made as much as poſſible the ſtudy of a ſoldier; as ſmall bodies of troops, poſſeſſing ſuch a knowledge of ſituation, may, if judiciouſly commanded, perform wonders, that might not, under different circumſtances, be ſo eaſily obtained.

It is eſſentially neceſſary that officers commanding out-poſts, ſhould pay particular attention that the ſoldiers are provided with every

article

article that may tend to benefit the ſervice. Rewarding valuor in ſoldiers who may diſtinguiſh themſelves by any particular action, and encouraging others, who may be ambitious to partake of the honors awarded; taking every care, at the ſame time, that the rewards are properly adjudged, will not only operate on the rewarded to perſevere in the ſame line of conduct, for which they are ſo honorably noticed, but ſuch marks of favor, when they are judicioſly beſtowed, muſt evidently act as an inducement to every ſoldier, by ſpuring him on to attain the ſame diſtinction, by ſome warlike deed of glory.

It is generally underſtood, in many caſes, that an act of miſconduct in war cannot poſſibly take place a ſecond time; and though ſuch a remark may appear ſomewhat ſingular to many, the reaſon to be aſſigned is but too fatally obvious; as an act of inebriety, inattention to orders, or letting the ſpirit of revenge too wantonly overpower the cooler dictates of diſcretion, may prove the means of a detachment being cut off by an enemy, beyond a poſſibility

of a retrieve; and therefore, all out-poſts ought to meet with particular marks of attention, not only to prevent a ſurpriſe, but by retarding the progreſs of the foe in their advancement from poſt to poſt, by which means the main body will have time to prepare to act according to the nature of the circumſtance, without being liable to be thrown into diſorder by the ſudden approach of the foe, which on all occaſions ſhould be particularly attended to, in order to avoid the danger that may otherwiſe ariſe, which cannot be better guarded againſt, than by putting every caution in force, to counteract the motions of an enemy.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

SMALL BODIES

RETREATING from an ENEMY, SETTING FIRE to VILLAGES, HOUSES, BARNS, &c.

AN honorable and ſafe retreat is, in many caſes, allowed to be nearly allied to a victory; to accompliſh which, the ground in the rear ought to be properly ſurveyed, and well underſtood; redoubts thrown up on ſuch commanding heights as may impede the advancing foe, and ſo on alternatively from redoubt to redoubt, until ſuch time as the ſtrength of the adverſary is aſcertained, by which means your future operations may be directed, either by daſhing on the enemy under cover of any poſt, or continuing the retreat till an opportunity offers for a partial or general attack.

The rear guard, or guards, compoſed of infantry and artillery, ſhould be properly and judiciouſly appointed. Small parties of horſe are highly neceſſary, in order to protect your infantry and cavalry; and ſome ſtrong ſquadrons ſhould, at every opportunity, preſent themſelves to the enemy.

Retreating in the day is in general looked upon to be very hazardous, therefore night is the moſt adviſeable, and certain time for a retreat. The infantry, heavy baggage, &c. ſhould be the firſt off the ground, leaving the cavalry to cover the rear. Indeed it is pretty well underſtood, by every perſon of experience, that the leſs baggage is attached to an army the better; for of all things the moſt dangerous, and likely to prove deſtructive to an army, is an unneceſſary and heavy attendance of luggage, which, at all times, greatly annoys a line of march, and occaſions conſiderable loſs.

Where villages are ſituated upon rivers, or where the direct road, and no other, runs through

through them, quantities of ſtraw placed in the houſes, barns, &c. at ſome diſtance from each other, or oppoſite ſides of the way, which, in caſes of great neceſſity, more particularly in the day time, ſhould be inſtantly ſet on fire, the moment the rear guard has paſſed them; for which reaſon the light dragoons are particularly adapted for ſuch a ſervice, and ſhould be provided with lanthorns for the purpoſe, with orders to ſet fire to the upper part of the houſe firſt, and ſo on in the deſcent, with as much expedition as poſſible, to every houſe ſo prepared for the occaſion.

The dragoons, after performing this duty, may ſling the lanthorns to the ſwivel belts, and retire to their horſes, which ſhould wait at ſome diſtance to receive them.

Not any thing impedes an army ſo much as this manœuvre, when properly executed, particularly where the ſtreets are narrow and confined; but if they ſhould chance to prove on the contrary, open and extenſive, wheel carriages,

riages, with ſtraw under them, placed between the houſes intended to be fired, will have the deſired effect.

Though this circumſtance may appear alarming, and indeed cruel to the peaſantry, by the loſs of their houſes and effects by fire, yet, let it be underſtood, that it is in its tendency totally the reverſe, and that for the following reaſons: The ravages of war are uncertain and dangerous, and it is much better, and more humane, to deſtroy a few houſes by fire, than a whole army ſhould periſh.

The enemy, during the campaign of 1793, have, on many occaſions, ſecured a retreat, by having recourſe to this expedient; and truth obliges me to acknowledge, have but too often been known to have ſucceeded too well.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

ADVANCE PARTIES,

Reconnoitering Attacks, &c.

ON entering into a diſcuſſion of this important part of Military Duty, it behoves me, in a particular manner, to obſerve, that it requires the moſt minute attention, both in officers and privates, when ſent upon this ſervice, particularly in incloſed countries, that thoſe patroles who have the ſcouring of the country, ſhould be very cautious that the taſk is effectually executed: in the performance of which, I muſt, in this place, remind them to be particularly careful never to loiter in any houſe,

houſe, yard, or village; as by ſuch a remiſſion of duty, not only their perſons are liable to be endangered by a ſurprize of the enemy, but it may in every reſpect prove the means of their being entirely cut off from their party: for it is in general known, and believed, that from any kind of ſurpriſe taking place, a panic or fear is too often the conſequence; and when intimidation once makes its way into any detached party, the victory of the day may be ſaid to be half loſt.

Care ſhould alſo be taken in paſſing woods or foreſts, in order to diſcover whether any maſked or other batteries, works, &c. may not be thrown up, and occupied by an enemy.

In advancing obliquely, either to the right or left, or in front, ſhould be performed with the utmoſt caution; as the *ear* of a *fox*, and the *eye* of a *hawk*, are in every way neceſſary on ſuch an occaſion.

Never deſpair, or think little of an enemy, however trifling and inſignificent they may appear to view; but on every occaſion endea-

vour

vour to be prepared to meet them with all your force; and, if you can by any means, aſcertain their numbers and ſituation, and that you can attack them with any probability of ſucceſs, no time ſhould be loſt in putting the ſcheme into execution, but immediately daſh on them, ſword in hand, in preference to piſtol, taking every care that your party is not ſurpriſed by bodies of the foe lying near; or that you are any ways drawn by ſtratagem into an ambuſcade; at the ſame time keeping in mind that no poſition is kept too long, where the country is not in ſome manner open to view, whereby your flying ſentries, or ſcouting parties, may be enabled to give you the moſt early information relative to your ſafety or danger.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

USE OF CAVALRY.

It is not without reaſon, that the cavalry are acknowledged to be the right hand of the army; as an army without cavalry may juſtly be looked upon as no army at all. Wherever large bodies of cavalry can act with propriety, every poſſible ſucceſs is to be hoped for, when properly ſupported; and it is for this reaſon that I look upon the French in the campaign of 1793, in having in every inſtance given way whenever the cavalry appeared, as if conſcious of the effects of their powerful interference, more particularly ſo in open countries.

It is highly neceſſary that the dragoon ſhould be acquainted with the management of his horſe,

horſe, and the uſe of his ſword; and above all, the riding-maſter ſhould be careful to give the horſe ſuch a bit as the rider may not have both hands engaged in the direction of him, which, in the time of action, would inevitably tend to his deſtruction, by debaring him of the uſe of his ſword-hand, to guard his horſe, as well as perſon, from pending danger.

Whenever it may ſo happen, that a hard-mouthed horſe may bear his rider into the ranks of an enemy, notwithſtanding his efforts to the contrary, I would recommend to the dragoon puſhing directly through them, and continue his pace in the rear of the enemy; and by turning off his horſe, either to the right or left, as the occaſion may require, cut his way back again.

A ſimilar circumſtance to this, however ſtrange it may appear, has fell within my obſervation twice during the campaign of 1793, when a dragoon of the 15th, on the 7th of Auguſt, at Ribecourt, near Cambray, drove through the enemy's ranks of cavalry, wheeled

his horſe about in the rear, and cut his path ſafely back.

And on the 28th of October, at Lannoi, near Liſle, three dragoons of the ſame regiment, drove through the enemy's ranks of infantry, immediately wheeled about, and in a like manner cut their way back again.

Cavalry, on moſt occaſions, has been found of great importance, and hence it is, that whatever army has been compoſed of the greateſt number of cavalry, when brought into action, have in general proved the moſt ſucceſsful, and frequently turned out maſters of the campaign.

Many reaſons might be advanced in ſupport of the benefit that is to be derived from a proper uſe of cavalry; but as the view of the author of theſe remarks is rather to give the heads of their utility in the compaſs of a pamphlet, than to ſwell the pages to a greater extent, he is induced to hope, that what is advanced in theſe obſervations, will be deemed of ſufficient ſcope to improve upon; for were he to enter into a

digreſſion

digreſſion on the full management of a horſe, and the inſtruction of the rider, a volume would ſcarcely be found ſufficient to anſwer the intended purpoſe, which, it is preſumed, that this ſmall treatiſe, in ſome manner, will effect.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
USE AND FORMATION
OF
DRAGOON SWORDS.

AN extenſive variety of ſwords, of different make and ſhape, have from time to time been introduced into the army; but how far the ſervice may have been benefited by ſuch an introduction, I am not able to determine. If a dragoon's ſword is ſufficiently ſharp, and himſelf properly ſkilful in the uſe of it, and the management of his horſe, he may at all times act on the offenſive, or defenſive, with ſome degree of ſucceſs and propriety.

In regard to the ſcimitar I ſhall confine myſelf to a very few remarks: from their circular formation

mation, a blow, in my opinion, well directed, is moſt likely to be attended with the deſired effect; but while the hand is raiſed, in order to put the aim in execution, it may poſſibly ſo happen, that the ſtraight ſword of an adverſary, at the ſame time oppoſed in a parallel line, with an extended arm, may prove the means of rendering the ſcimitar of little or no effect.

That ſquadron, at the time of charging the enemy, armed with ſtraight ſwords, and well-directed between the horſes ears, I fully conceive will have a pre-eminent advantage over the ſquadron armed with ſcimitars, as the velocity of the horſe is ſuch, as to render the ſword-arm ſo exceedingly powerful and quick, as to transfix the weapon in an opponent almoſt inſtantaneouſly.

This mode of charge was always put in practice by the late Lord Heathfield (then General Elliot, of the 15th regiment of light dragoons) in the German war of 1761, 1762, and part of 1763, with an unprecedented ſucceſs.

As I have already obſerved, that a ſtroke of a ſcimitar, well directed, may prove ſucceſsful, the

the ſwordſman ſhould ever keep in mind the following advice, whether in a ſkirmiſh or a ſingle combat, let his ſword be of whatever nature it will: in advancing in purſuit of an enemy, be always careful to keep him, by every poſſible endeavour, on your right, by which means the whole of his body is expoſed, and open to your ſword-arm, unleſs (which is ſeldom the caſe) he ſhould prove left-handed. And I have with much ſatisfaction obſerved, in many inſtances during the laſt campaign, when this advice was given by myſelf, and the propriety of it ſtrongly enforced, at a time when I had the honor to accompany and charge with the 15th regiment of Light Dragoons; particularly on the 7th of Auguſt, at Ribercourt, near Cambray; and on the 28th of October, at Lannoi, when it was attended with the moſt flattering ſucceſs; and indeed, ſo much ſo, that every officer of the line was aſtoniſhed at hearing of the great ſuperiority of the enemy; their total defeat; the numbers killed and taken priſoners, and that with a loſs, on the ſide of the 15th, ſo trifling and inſignificant, as to render the victory the moſt deciſive and brilliant imaginable.

It will alſo be neceſſary in this place to obſerve, that when under the diſagreeable neceſſity of retreating ſingly, never to let the enemy paſs you on your *left*, for the reaſons that I gave in keeping them on the *right* when you are advancing in the purſuit.

OBSERVATIONS
ON
EMBARKING
AND
DISEMBARKING
HORSES.

As this is a kind of ſervice that requires the utmoſt ſkill and attention in thoſe intruſted with ſo important a part of military duty, it is highly neceſſary, with a view to expedite the embarkation, that the beſt men in every way acquainted with the management of the horſe, together with the farrier of the troop, be appointed to attend.

Shy and vigorous horſes muſt be treated with every lenity; and I have found by experience, that a march of twenty miles previous to the embarkation

barkation taking place, has prevented much trouble, by cauſing a fatigue in the animals, that not only curbs the ſpirits, but greatly tends to render them more tractable in the act of embarking.

Vicious and reſtleſs horſes, a day prior to their embarkation, ought to have at leaſt a quart of blood taken from them; and from ſome horſes three pints may be taken with ſafety.

This precaution, however ſtrange it may appear, will in all probability prove the means of ſaving the life of the horſe, and prevent accidents that might otherwiſe ariſe to the men who look after him.

It is likewiſe to be remarked, that ſuch horſes as are ſtationed at the head, or ſtern, of a ſhip, ſhould be indulged with as much air as poſſible, as the want of it may not only prove detrimental to the enterpriſe, but fatal in its conſequences to every perſon in the veſſel; for which reaſon it is neceſſary, that two or three planks of the whole length of the lower deck ſhould be

taken up; the doing of which can in no way injure the ſhip, if a judicious carpenter, or proper perſon is employed in ſuch an office: and for the better preſervation of the horſes, it is neceſſary that a ſpare ſtall or two ſhould be kept for the purpoſe.

It is further to be obſerved, that previous to the coming on of a gale of wind, the horſes heads ſhould be tied as cloſe to the faſtening as poſſible.

Sheep ſkins have in many caſes been applied with conſiderable ſucceſs round the poſts and bales, between each horſe; but if ſuch poſts or bales be well rounded by the carpenter's plain, I look upon ſuch an expedient to be unneceſſary.

The hole-guard ſhould be particularly careful of the candles and lanthorns, as indifference in this reſpect is too often of ſerious concern. In fine weather the horſes may be allowed a little more head-way, but to no great extent.

With regard to ſlinging of horſes in a ſtorm at ſea, it is attended with much trouble, and but little

little or no advantage. I have for theſe twenty eight years paſt been in the habit of croſſing the Engliſh and Iriſh Channels, with a number of horſes, during which time I have been witneſs to many ſevere gales of wind, and yet never ſlung or loſt a horſe on any occaſion whatever; having always conſidered a proper quantity of pure air the firſt and moſt eſſential precaution neceſſary to the preſervation of horſes while in a ſhip. Notwithſtanding which, I do not pretend to ſay, but that in voyages of any extent, ſuch an expedient may ſometimes be found neceſſary.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

CONDUCTING

Artillery, Baggage, &c.

THERE is no part of military duty that requires more attention than in the conducting of artillery; and indeed it is ſo highly neceſſary to the preſervation of an army, to have the artillery to accompany its movements, that the greateſt precaution is wanted, not only on the part of the drivers, but on thoſe who may have the direction of them. And here it is requiſite to remark, ſuch perſons as may have the ſuperintendance of drivers, ſhould be well verſed in the knowledge of giving neceſſary and effectual orders in regard to the compariſon of artillery, horſes, &c. Firſt, in obſerving that the draught collars

collars are neither too large or ſmall, as the former may prove the means of rendering the horſe unfit for ſercice, by lacerating his ſhoulders; and the latter endanger his life, by preventing reſpiration.

Secondly. Particular attention is required to the equal length of the draught chain, as well as properly and frequently greaſing the wheels of the carriage, in order to reduce the power of friction, and at the ſame time leſſen the burthen of the animal.

Thirdly. A thorough knowledge of the ſpirit and ſtrength of draught horſes in general; as a heavy and indolent horſe ſhould never be worked in company with a young and vigorous animal, who is ready and willing to obey on any occaſion; as I have known, from a want of knowledge in a point ſo particular, a number of excellent horſes, in the courſe of a few days march, rendered totally unfit for ſervice; it being a maxim too frequently adopted by ignorant drivers, that the horſe that works the beſt is often compelled to perform, not only his own portion of labour, but that of the animal that

cannot,

cannot, or will not work at all; and therefore it becomes neceſſary that horſes be properly ſelected to perform the duty allotted them.

It may ſometimes be requiſite, in order to recover a fatigued horſe, to place him in ſuch a ſtation as may in ſome meaſure tend to the reinſtatement of his ſtrength; and this may very eaſily be done by a removal of the animal to a lighter carriage, where the burthen is of leſs weight; as by ſuch a laudable indulgence a few days may prove the means of renovating his natural vigour, and render him capable of going through his uſual labour, which, if injudiciouſly continued, may only render him a repaſt for the hounds.

There is another caſe worthy of conſideration that behoves me at this time to notice, which is, officers taking their turn of duty by rotation; for it may poſſibly ſo happen as to fall to the lot of a gentleman to have the care of this part of military duty, who, from youth or inexperience, may be totally unacquainted with either the theory or practical part of it, when it

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is every way neceſſary that he ſhould be perfectly acquainted with both, particularly if an army is neceſſiated to advance, or retreat, with any rapidity.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS

IN

DEFENDING BAGGAGE, &c.

FROM THE

ATTACK OF AN ENEMY

When detached from an Army.

WHOEVER is intruſted with the care of military baggage, ought to have ſome knowledge of the ſituation of the country in which he is in, particularly in regard to good and bad roads; which part is paved, and which is on the contrary, in order to aſcertain what time it may require to execute his miſſion, without being obliged (unleſs neceſſity may urge it) to march in the night; in which caſe it will be neceſſary

that

that the new invented Military Lanthorn, the utility of which I ſhall preſently have occaſion to explain, be provided for the purpoſe.

It is highly expedient, that he ſhould alſo be acquainted with the likelihood or probability of a ſudden approach of an enemy, whereby any part of his baggage may be liable to be cut off; and in caſe of an attack, to combine judgment with courage, by acting on the defenſive inſtead of the offenſive; as the former may prove the means of ſecuring his charge, when the latter may tend to loſe it.

No perſon ſhould be made acquainted, on any account whatever, with the place of deſtination intended for the baggage, except thoſe whoſe duty it is to bring up the rear. Your guide ſhould likewiſe on no account be permitted to hold any converſation on the road with the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, leſt the purport of the march ſhould be diſcovered, and your baggage fall a prey by ſuch an error to the art or ſtratagem of the enemy.

If any misfortune attends your line of march, by waggons being overſet, breaking of wheels, &c. it is neceſſary, for the good of the ſervice, that the bulk of the baggage ſhould not be ſtopped in its progreſs; and for the more ſpeedy remedy of any accident of this nature, an empty waggon or two ſhould at all times, if poſſible, accompany the rear of line of march, for the purpoſe of receiving the baggage of the broken waggon, which, when cleared of its effects, if not convenient to carry away, may be left behind; or in caſe of no empty waggon being in the line, then the contents of the broken one may be diſperſed to the moſt advantage among the others, and the horſes placed to the beſt utility, as the occaſion may require.

CURSORY REMARKS

ON THE

USE OF GUIDES,

AND THE

New-Invented Military Lanthorn.

A PERSON inſtructed with the care of guides is generally diſtinguiſhed with the appellation of captain, and ought to be ſelected to fill ſuch an office, for not only poſſeſſing a perfect knowledge of military duty, but one endowed by nature with a fancy rich in invention, and a genius able to carry the effects of it into execution; as on the judgment and talents of a captain of a guide, who in many caſes is entruſted with the care of an army on its march, both by day and night, its ſafety, in a great meaſure, may be ſaid to depend.

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He has alſo under his direction all convoys, detachments, artillery, baggage, &c. and is in many inſtances reſponſible for the conduct of the drivers of waggons, &c. &c.

He ſhould likewiſe have a number of perſons under him, in whom he can repoſe an implicit confidence; who, together with himſelf, ſhould have ſome knowledge of different languages; and at the ſame time, be in poſſeſſion of the beſt and moſt intelligent maps of the country, for the better information and intent of carrying his plans into effect.

It is further to be obſerved, that when circumſtances render it incumbent to ſelect any of the peaſants, for the purpoſe of aſſiſting him in his deſigns: it ſhould be his peculiar care to make choice of ſuch perſons as are well acquainted with every road, and the probability of ſuch part of the army, as is under his command, being able to march without impediment. In order to do which, I would recommend to his choice intelligent, ſage, experienced perſons, in preference to youth, on whom he may place a ſtronger and more certain reliance.

In

In marches by night, it is, in my opinion, highly neceſſary that he ſhould be provided with a number of the new-invented *military lanthorns*, the uſe and benefit of which I ſhall elucidate as follows:

The lanthorn is ſo conſtructed as to light occaſionally and at pleaſure, in every direction that can be wiſhed; and in caſe of neceſſity or danger, either in advancing or retreating privately, to or from an enemy, it is ſo conſtructed, by lighting the earth only, perpendicular under it, that the party in whoſe poſſeſſion it is in, may ſafely conduct the army under his care with a ſtrong body of light, without a poſſibility of its being perceived by an enemy, ſhould they happen to be within the diſtance of ten yards, or leſs. This invention muſt, therefore prove of conſiderable importance and advantage to the army in general, where ſecrecy and quick movements are neceſſary to accompliſh the object in view.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

COMMISSARY GENERAL's DEPARTMENT.

THERE is no part of military ſervice that requires greater attention, or is attended with more fatigue, than the one under conſideration. To provide and ſupply the neceſſary wants of a large army, muſt evidently demand the utmoſt care and abilities to anſwer the deſired effect; conſequently the perſon allotted to ſuch a department may be ſaid to have a truſt of the greateſt importance to the preſervation of the army inveſted in him to fulfil.

The deputies of a commiſſary-general ſhould be men of known experience in mercantile con-

concerns; and their waggon-maſter poſſeſſed of conſiderable judgment in regard to the care of horſes, drivers, waggons, and a multiplicity of matters of much weight, annexed to the office.

He ſhould ſpeak the different languages fluently; be perfectly acquainted with the country, and the poſitions of an enemy, in order to prevent any part of the convoy entruſted to his care from falling into their hands; and in particular is anſwerable for the conduct of the men, by ſtrictly obſerving that they do not loiter on the road, and thereby fail in arriving in proper time at the place of deſtination.

Two or more riding-commiſſaries are generally attached to this department, whoſe province is to purchaſe, for the uſe of the army, commodities of flouer, hay, ſtraw, corn, &c. conſequently ſhould be acquainted with the countries that produce the beſt and greateſt quantities of thoſe articles, as well as their prices and quality; and more particularly to the making up of the bundles of hay and ſtraw, according to the weight *per* ration; and to their

conveyance to ſuch magazines appointed to receive them with all poſſible ſpeed. For be it remembered, that the tranſportation of theſe articles in fine weather, and on good roads, requires but little ſkill or judgment; but when the weather happens to prove wet, and the roads, in conſequence, much impaired, it is neceſſary to ſtock the magazines in proper time with a ſufficient quantity of theſe neceſſaries, for the daily conſumption of the army, as nothing can prove more detrimental to the ſervice, than any neglect in the non-performance of theſe duties, which may, in many caſes, tend to the utter ruin of a whole army.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

OUT-POSTS, &c.

AN engineer of out-poſts ſhould be a man in whom nature has engrafted courage, tempered with diſcretion; it being neceſſary that he ſhould reconnoitre not only the environs of the camp, but alſo pay the ſtricteſt attention to the advanced poſts; and by throwing up redoubts, intrenchments, &c. endeavour, by ſuch means, to prevent any ſudden approach of an enemy.

Every defile ſhould in ſome manner be guarded, as well as fordable places, of every deſcription; and in ſhort every avenue or place, where an enemy may be capable of effecting an approach.

It is further to be obſerved, in caſe of a retreat, that a ſecond line of poſts ſhould be appointed, and fortified with equal precaution, ſo as to prevent any rapid advance of an enemy; for which reaſon an engineer ſhould make choice of ſituations formed by *nature*, which, aſſiſted by *art*, may render any ſudden approach of the foe impracticable. At the ſame time, it is to be remarked, that the greateſt judgment is neceſſary in making choice of the beſt, and moſt likely poſitions, to produce ſo deſirable an end.

And I am alſo of an opinion, that a ſufficient number of engineers ſhould be appointed to the chain of out-poſts, ſo as two or three may at all times be on the ſpot, either by day or night; more particularly at the relieving of the piquets, or out-poſts, in order to inſtruct the officers, and give them every information, and mode of defence, in caſe of an attack by the enemy.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS
ON
DISEASES
INCIDENTAL TO HORSES
During a Campaign.

IT is generally underſtood, that diſeaſes in horſes too frequently ariſe from the ignorance of thoſe to whoſe care they are intruſted; and it has been found by experience, that in giving horſes too great a quantity of water on an empty ſtomach in cold weather, has brought on a violent cough, accompanied with a great diſcharge of matter from the noſtrils, which has in many inſtances been miſtook for the *glanders*; and as horſes cannot expectorate, conſequently the diſcharge may diminiſh or increaſe, and obſtructions form under the jaw, that may bear ſtrong reſemblace to ſuch a diſtemper.

The

The lungs may, at the ſame time, prove ulcerated, &c. in which caſe the animal is generally known to refuſe his food; and if the weather continues ſevere, the diſeaſe is apt to increaſe, and the horſe in conſequence rendered totally unfit for ſervice. To prevent which, it is neceſſary that the horſe ſhould be ſent at ſome diſtance into the rear, and a kind of *horſe hoſpital eſtabliſhed*, for which intent large farm yards will be found to anſwer the purpoſe, where diſtinct places may be ſet apart for different diſeaſes, viz. One for the reception of wounded, ſore backed, and lame horſes:---a ſecond, for thoſe infected with a diſtemper commonly called the mange:---a third, for horſes troubled with colds:---a fourth, for ſuch as are ſuſpected to be *glandered*, &c. &c.

A brigade, or three regiments of diſeaſed horſes, may be incorporated together; and one farrier, properly ſkilled in veterinary medicines, together with an aſſiſtant, and a ſaddler might be appointed, and would, in my opinion, be found ſufficient, with a ſerjeant or a coporal, to take care of the whole.

Such

Such a plan as this, if properly carried into execution, would certainly tend to leſſen the number of led horſes too frequently ſeen attached to regiments; whereby the ſervice is greatly injured, by diminiſhing its ſtrength, in taking up the time and attention of the dragoons in looking after the horſes, when their ſervices in the field might be turned to much more advantage.

The ſaddles and bridles ſhould always accompany the ſick horſes to their hoſpital; and the ſaddler ſhould carefully ſtuff the ſaddles of ſuch as may have proved the cauſe of lacerating the horſes backs.

The age and deſcription of the horſes, together with the troop and regiment to which they belong, ſhould be ſent with them, with ſuch precautions as the wiſdom of the commanding officer may deem neceſſary, to prevent the ſaddles from being loſt or changed.

A place ſet apart for the accommodation of *artillery horſes* that may be *ſick*, or any way diſeaſed,

diſeaſed, in a ſimilar manner to what I have already pointed out, would, in my opinion, tend to prove of eſſential benefit to the ſervice.

To enter into a detail of the various medicines, or the ſkill of the farrier, I ſhall totally forbear, convinced that it would prove a ſubject too extenſive in its nature, for me, to do any like juſtice to it, in ſo compreſſed a work as the preſent; and therefore conceive, or at leaſt am induced to hope, that ſuch heads as I have touched upon in the courſe of the preceding pages, will be found of that utility and benefit to the *profeſſion* and *duty* of a ſoldier, as will not only prove of ſome advantage to my *brave* and *valiant countrymen*, at this time on actual ſervice on the Continent.

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